Growth Centres and Industrial Development Centres

1661. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the growth Centres/Industrial Development Centres functioning at present, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of such Centres proposed to be set up during the next three years, State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the fund allocated for the aforesaid purpose;

(d) whether any time-bound programme has been formulated to complete these Centres;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Presently, 48 growth Centres are functional including 3 Growth Centres namely, Hindupur (Ananthpur), Bobbili (Vizianagaram) and Ongole (Prakasam) in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) For the present, government is not proposing to set up new Growth Centres in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) to (f) Completion of the sanctioned projects is dependent upon the initiatives taken by the State Governments, particularly in providing land, physical infrastructure and matching share, etc. Goverment is monitoring the progress periodically.

Free Trade Agreement with European Union

1662. SHRI . RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.K. put forth a proposal before the

Government of India for entering into Free Trade Agreement with the E.U.;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c)if so, how the Indian interest would be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) No formal proposal has been received from the United Kingdom which is a Member State of the European Union.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Outcome of Hong Kong round of WTO negotiations

1663. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hong Kong round of WTO negotiations did not yield the desired results;

(b) whether another round of WTO negotiation is likely to take place to resolve the difference between developed and developing countries;

(c) if so, the reasons for failure of negotiations of Hong Kong;

(d) whether it is a fact the US-EU were not prepared to reduce subsidy in agriculture sector;

(e) if so, the reason for insisting not to reduce subsidy in agriculture sector; and

(f) when the other round of WTO negotiation is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) to (f) The Sixth Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference was held in Hong Kong from from 13-18 December 2005. The Ministers at Hong Kong reviewed the ongoing negotiations under the Doha Work